



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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CHOLLAS CREEK TO BE RESTORED

\$2.2 million state grant will help clean up the creek and San Diego Bay

San Diego -- December 04, 2002 - Mayor Dick Murphy, Councilmember Scott Peters and Councilmember Charles Lewis today announced that the City of San Diego has received a \$2.2 million grant from the State of California to protect and restore Chollas Creek.

"This grant will help achieve two of my goals for the city: to create neighborhoods we can be proud of and to clean up our beaches and bays," Mayor Murphy said. "The money will be spent to restore overgrown and polluted creek beds to a natural state so they can be enjoyed by the community. At the same time, the new, wider waterways and native vegetation will naturally filter out pollution before it reaches the coast."

The grant will pay for improvements within three segments of the Chollas Creek South Fork including: tearing out concrete sections of the channel, widening the creek bed, reviving wetlands, and installing walkways. The project also will implement an education plan to encourage nearby residents to help protect the creek, ensuring it will remain healthy long after construction is complete.

The 30-mile Chollas Creek, which originates in La Mesa and Lemon Grove, runs through the City of San Diego communities of City Heights, Encanto, Valencia Park, Lincoln Park, Southcrest and Barrio Logan before spilling into the Bay near Naval Station San Diego.

"The Chollas Creek project is part of our ongoing pursuit of better water quality in the City of San Diego," said Councilmember Peters, who is co-chair with Murphy of the Clean Water Task Force. "By returning concreted channels to dirt and restoring native vegetation we can create natural pollution filters that improve our water quality and create park-like settings that enhance our quality of life."

This Chollas Creek project is part of a larger community vision for improvements that residents have sought since the 1970's.

"This is the start of a new era. I am proud to announce that this will be the first of many projects that will benefit the Fourth Council District," stated Councilmember Lewis. "I envision clean, natural water in District Four creeks that we as a community can enjoy and learn from."

The City of San Diego and its project partners --the cities of La Mesa and Lemon Grove, the San Diego Unified Port District, the Environmental Health Coalition, San Diego Baykeeper, Southwestern College and the San Diego Unified School District -- intend to protect and restore the beneficial uses of Chollas Creek and the mouth of the creek at San Diego Bay with a multifaceted approach. It will incorporate public outreach, environmental education, community involvement and restoration activities. The City of San Diego's Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program will administer the grant.

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